

## South King County Projects Update

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## South King County traffic closures this week

### Interstate 5

- Expect daily closures of the left lane of southbound I-5 from Military Road to South 320<sup>th</sup> Monday through Saturday from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. as crews build HOV ramps and lanes in the median. These closures are scheduled to continue through January.
- Expect nightly closures of the left lane of northbound I-5 from South 320<sup>th</sup> to Military Road Monday through Thursday from 6 p.m. to 5 a.m. for paving. These closures are scheduled to continue through December.
- Expect nighttime closures of two lanes of southbound I-5 between S. 336<sup>th</sup> Street and Highway 18 Thursday through Sunday nights (Dec. 8-11) for pavement repair. Lane closures will begin at 8 p.m. on Thursday and Sunday, and at 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. All southbound lanes will reopen by 7 a.m. each morning.

### Highway 18

- Expect nightly closures of the left lane in each direction of Highway 18 near I-5 Monday through Thursday (Dec. 5-8) from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. Crews will remove barrier and place scaffolding for bridge work.

### Interstate 5 / Highway 18 Interchange

- On Thursday night, Dec. 8, the southbound I-5 on-ramp from eastbound Highway 18 will close from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. while crews repair southbound I-5 pavement.
- On Sunday night, Dec. 11, the southbound I-5 on-ramp from westbound Highway 18 will close from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. while crews repair southbound I-5 pavement.

### Highway 161

- Expect daily shoulder closures on Highway 161 between S. 360<sup>th</sup> and Milton Way Monday through Friday (Dec. 5-9) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. as crews work to widen the highway.

## State Patrol stresses enforcement and safety on I-5 in Federal Way this week

Extra patrols will be on the watch this week for speeding motorists through the work zone on I-5 near South 317<sup>th</sup> Street. Drivers exceeding the posted speed limits will be cited double the regular traffic fines. WSDOT and the State Patrol hope to raise awareness and change driver behavior in work zones through enforcement.

"We want the public to be aware that WSDOT crews are out there working year-round to make our roads safer and better," explained State Patrol Chief John Batiste. "Drivers need to slow down in these areas for their own safety as well as the workers'," Chief Batiste said.

Fast facts:

- Between 1999 and 2003, more than 5,500 work zone collisions have occurred in Washington.
- Nationally, more than 85% of fatalities in highway work zones are drivers and passengers.
- Highway construction is one of the most dangerous occupations in the U.S.
- Nationally, there are an average of 3 work zone fatalities every day.

## Don't forget our I-405 project open house this week

As we mentioned in [last week's message](#), you're invited to come and learn about our plans for a project to improve I-405 between Renton and Bellevue. We will hold the open house this Thursday night, Dec. 8., from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Renton Housing Authority (2900 NE 10th Street, Renton). We also invite you to sign up for [e-mail updates](#) on I-405 projects.

## Year in Review: Highway 18 Truck Climbing Lane

Each week in December we plan to take a look back at one of the four major projects we've covered in our e-mail updates this year. This week we'll review the [Highway 18 Truck-Climbing Lane Project](#), which added a westbound lane for slower-moving vehicles on SR 18 between Auburn and Federal Way. This project has received rave reviews for reducing congestion and travel times on this stretch of highway.

Work on the \$20.6 million project began in spring 2004. By the beginning of 2005 crews had completed most of the clearing, grading, and retaining walls associated with widening the highway to the south of the existing highway, along with most of the Peasley Canyon Bridge widening. In 2005 crews completed most of the paving, barrier and guardrail installation, electrical work (for lighting and traffic cameras), installation of a new signal at the westbound exit to Weyerhaeuser Way, and striping.

We opened the new truck-climbing lane Oct. 12, and we added new traffic cameras at [Weyerhaeuser Way](#) and [West Valley Hwy](#) to the WSDOT Web site Nov. 3. Although the new lane is open to traffic, some minor electrical work remains. Crews should complete this work in early 2006.

## Highway advisory radio updates

Tune your radio to 1520 AM to hear a new project update each week on I-5 in Federal Way. Questions or comments? E-mail [Laura Johnson](#).